

MINUTES
Public Hearing of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, August 12, 2014
7:00 P.M.

14-CR-01

**Charter Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Amending
Article V “Charter Amendments”, §C5-1, “Procedure For Petition” To Require Certain
Information To Be Included On Referendum Petitions**

PRESENT: Mayor Fellows; Councilmembers Kabir, Wojahn, Brennan, Dennis, Stulich
(arrived at 7:05 p.m.), Day, Hew, and Mitchell (arrived at 7:03 p.m.).

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Bill Gardiner, Assistant
City Manager; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney.

Mayor Fellows opened the public hearing on Charter Amendment 14-CR-01 at 7:00 p.m. City Attorney Ferguson provided an overview. This is an amendment to §C5-1 of the charter with respect to the procedure that is followed when a charter amendment is taken to referendum. This began with an effort to make a template charter referendum form available to the public. Council then requested to add two fields to the template form. The fields that were added, date signed and circulator’s affidavit, help the Board of Election Supervisors validate petition signatures. This Charter Amendment modifies the City Charter with respect to the information that must be contained on the template referendum petition form. With this adoption, the City would be able to provide a form to make it clear what kind of information the City is requiring.

Mayor Fellows invited public comment:

Dave Dorsch, 4607 Calvert Road: Most people don’t know what election district they are in so why require it on the form? They are already going through the arduous process of a petition process, so why put this roadblock in their way. You should make it as easy as possible for people. The County does not require an election district. Also see how you can do this electronically.

Mary Cook, 4705 Kiernan Road: She thinks the form is great, but what is more important is that there are dozens of people who no longer live in the City on the voter rolls, which makes it harder to get the 20% needed for a referendum. What can be done to purge the voter rolls?

After discussion, Council requested a future Worksession discussion about addressing the issue of purging the voter rolls with the County’s Board of Elections.

There being no further comment, Mayor Fellows closed the public hearing at 7:14 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller, CMC
City Clerk

Date Approved